

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 056066
ORIGIN NODS-00

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-----141341Z 023428 /44
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 056066

NODIS
FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENTIANE 512 ACTION SECSTATE 14 MAR 77

QUOTE S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0512

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR OVIP OREP SOPN AFSP LA US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION VISIT TO LPDR

REFS: A) STATE 55991, B) STATE 53599, C) STATE 51144,
D) STATE 56062

1. LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS MARCH 14 TOLD US FIVE
JOURNALISTS WERE AUTHORIZED TO VISIT WITH COMMISSION AND
THAT THERE WAS "NO PROBLEM" OF VISAS FOR MEMBERS OF COMMISSION,
STAFF, JOURNALISTS, AND CREW., I.E., VISAS NEED NOT RPT NOT
BE OBTAINED AT LAO EMBASSY IN HANOI.

2. COMMISSION, STAFF, AND JOURNALISTS TOTALING 21 PERSONS
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WILL BE HOUSED IN LANE XANG (MILLION ELEPHANTS) HOTEL,
VIENTIANE'S BEST ALTHOUGH NOT ELEGANT. PAYMENT WILL BE IN
US DOLLARS. DOLLARS MAY BE EXCHANGE AT HOTEL AT OFFICIAL
RATE OF 200 KIP PER DOLLAR.

3. THERE IS A PRESENT NO COMMERICAL FLIGHT EXCEPT
AEROFLOT TO RANGOON AT 1635 SATURDAY BY WHICH ON-BOARD

PRESS COULD SEND ARRIVAL FILM OUT OF COUNTRY. OTHER POSSIBILITY IS FOR EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER TO TAKE FILM ACROSS MEKONG RIVER TO NONGKHAI IN THAILAND FOR PICKUP BY AMCONSUL UDORN TO PUT ON THAI AIRWAYS FLIGHT TO BANGKOK AT 1305 SATURDAY. TRIP TO UDORN WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO HOURS.

4. WE HAVE ASKED LAO FOR STEP FOR PLANE AND, AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF AIRCRAFT TYPE, TAIL NUMBER, CALL SIGN, RADIO FREQUENCY, AND CREW, WE WILL SEND NOT ASKING FOR FLIGHT CLEARANCE AND GROUND POWER CART AND JET AIR STARTER, IF AVAILABLE.

5. MAJOR PROBLEM REMAINING IS ESTABLISHING FIRM DATES FOR VISIT. WE HAVE TOLD LAO THAT IN RESPONSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO SECRETARY COMMISSION PLANS ARRIVE MARCH 19 AND LEAVE MARCH 20, OR MARCH 21, IF LAO WISH. LAO OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, SAID THEY WERE EXPECTING COMMISSION MARCH 20 TO MARCH 21, DATES WE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. WE HAVE ASKED THEM TO GET THIS STRAIGHTENED OUT MARCH 14 OR MARCH 15 AT LATEST SINCE IT WILL BE EASIER TO CONTACT COMMISSION BEFORE IT GOES INTO HANOI.

6. WE ALSO TOLD LAO THAT WE EXPECTED THEM MAKE PROPOSALS FOR SCHEDULE BUT THAT, SUBJECT TO THEIR VIEWS, WE SUGGESTED MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OR OTHER APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS MARCH 19 AND APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG MARCH 19 OR 20.
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UNQUOTE VANCE

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